

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT / RAPPORT TECHNIQUE FINAL IUSSP SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CRVS SYSTEMS FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT TO IDRC

IUSSP;

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IDRC Grant / Subvention du CRDI: 109002-001-Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems: IUSSP scientific panel on population perspectives and demographic methods to strengthen CRVS systems

IUSSP Scientific Panel on CRVS Systems

Final Technical Report to IDRC

April 30, 2021

Romesh Silva, Chair, IUSSP Scientific Panel on CRVS Systems

Paul Monet, Deputy Executive Director, IUSSP

Executive Summary

- The Panel's work progressed well throughout the duration of the IDRC-CoE grant. Substantial adjustments were required, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Panel had to cancel its in-person workshops and technical meetings, and replace them with online meetings. Major contributions have been made by the Panel's members and fellows to a number of in-person international meetings including the Demostaf Conference, African Population Conference, and IUSSP-UNFPA Expert Group Meeting. The Panel also hosted two internal seminar series to support IUSSP CRVS Fellows and a major webinar on excess mortality due to COVID-19 in Latin America.
- The Panel has supported a strong cohort of 8 technical researchers who developed in-depth analyses on CRVS systems in Malaysia, India, Peru, Uganda, Italy, Iran and Bangladesh. Fellows have been supported in carrying out a field research project and been actively advised by IUSSP Panel members.
- In addition to the aforementioned fellowship program and engagement in meetings/conferences, the Panel is in an advanced stage of compiling a thematic series in *Genus*, the Journal of Population Sciences. The Genus Thematic Series on CRVS, originally scheduled for an April 2021 release, is scheduled to be launched around August, 2021. This thematic series includes 4 manuscripts on the completeness and quality of vital event registration data (1 on birth registration, 3 on death registration) and 8 manuscripts on the proximate determinants and correlates of vital event under-registration.
- The Panel has also advanced its work on a Springer/IUSSP Edited Volume on CRVS Systems. However, due to the time and budget demands for the Genus Thematic Series, work on this edited volume is ongoing and is due to be completed around the end of 2021.
- The Panel is finalizing its preparations for the launch its Genus thematic series at the 2021 International Population Conference – the largest and oldest population conference in the world. This will entail a signature session and related research-focused activities showcasing the Genus thematic series and the work of the IUSSP Scientific Panel on CRVS.. These efforts will help highlight the importance of CRVS systems and potential entry points for technical contributions by demographers to evaluate, strengthen and utilize such systems.
- The Panel has also conducted scientific outreach activities, both in-person and virtually, on the intersection of legal identity and civil registration to help the mainstream community of demographers and population scientists better understand the emerging issues in that space and how demographers might actively contribute and support interdisciplinary research in this area.

Background

The CoE provided **technical and financial support to establish and roll out a technical scientific panel on CRVS Systems** via “Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems: IUSSP Scientific Panel on Population Perspectives and Demographic Methods to Strengthen Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems (Grant No.: 109002-001)”. The CoE’s financial support a grant of CA\$282,000 from 1 May, 2019 to 30 April, 2021.

The supported IUSSP CRVS panel, to run from 2019 to 2022, harnesses the expertise of demographers and facilitates collaborative exchange within the international community of demographers and between the IUSSP membership and investors, leaders and practitioners in the CRVS and Legal ID community. In short, this panel seeks to (i) enhance ongoing efforts to improve CRVS systems by leveraging the technical expertise of the international demography community and (ii) to facilitate the adaptation and usage of the principles, methods and materials of demography to current efforts to improve civil registration processes and the production of vital statistics from incomplete/deficient civil registration systems.

The IUSSP Scientific Panel is well-placed to contribute scientific contributions and independent peer-review to the CRVS community. In particular, the panel is well-positioned to support the global CRVS community to:

- (i) Develop and apply demographic methods of assessment to better understand the completeness and quality of civil registration systems. This will support improved monitoring of civil registration process improvements;
- (ii) Adapt and improve methods to integrate data between CRVS systems and other related population data systems (including population census, household surveys, health information systems, national ID systems). This supports CRVS systems effectiveness, by ensuring that CRVS systems are not stand-alone systems but rather part of integrated population data systems that support social inclusion and enhanced population data intelligence for governments, civil society and the private sector; and
- (iii) Promote social scientific research on the proximate determinants and social consequences of under-registration of vital events. Such research is valuable in designing interventions to promote civil registration and guiding investment decisions of governments, development banks, international donors and the private sectors that recognize CRVS systems as a crucial administrative data system.

Objectives

The 2019-2022 IUSSP Panel on CRVS systems will focus on three complementary and mutually-strengthening focus areas:

1. Applied research on completeness and quality assessment of vital event registration (namely births, deaths and marriages) and strengthening of the feedback loop between completeness/quality assessment and CRVS systems strengthening efforts;
2. Interdisciplinary outreach by IUSSP and the international demography community to other disciplines and subject matter experts involved in the strengthening of CRVS, legal ID, and related population data systems;
3. Practical research and technical guidance on the proximate determinants and the social and economic consequences of under-registration of vital events.

The work of the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Population Perspectives and Demographic Methods to Strengthen CRVS Systems has been focused around three main areas of work:

1. Enhancement to the methodological development and implementation of Completeness and Quality Assessment of birth, marriage and death registration;
2. Ethical and Human Rights Issues associated with the integration of CRVS Systems and Legal Identity Systems;
3. Social and behavioral norms leading to under-registration of vital events.

Overview of Activities and Outputs

In terms of major activities, the Panel's work has entailed the following core activities:

- The selection, onboarding and mentoring of [8 IUSSP CRVS Fellows](#) from around the world to support their research and facilitate alignment between the academic and practitioner CRVS communities. The Panel provided active research mentoring to the 8 IUSSP CRVS Fellows, linked fellows to other researchers and to CRVS resources at IDRC and elsewhere, and has granted each fellow a \$5,000 research grant.
- Hosting of or contributing to major research conferences by highlighting population perspectives and demographic methods to strengthen CRVS Systems:
 - Co-sponsoring and organizing CRVS sessions at the [Demostaf Conference in Paris in October, 2019](#). A detailed summary of the two CRVS sessions sponsored by the panel is available [here](#);
 - Organizing an invited panel session on emerging issues in CRVS and Identity Systems at the African Population Conference in November, 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda. An overview of the panel session is available [here](#);
 - Co-hosting an [Expert Group Meeting in New York with IUSSP, UNFPA and IDRC in December, 2019](#) and organizing two sessions focused specifically on CRVS systems;
- As part of its work during the COVID-19 pandemic period, the Panel has hosted/sponsored the following key virtual activities:
 1. Virtual workshop of the IUSSP 'CRVS' Fellows, 23-26 April 2020.
 - The Panel hosted a 4-part webinar series to provide review and feedback on Fellows' research progress. Recordings of all 4 webinars are available upon request. The focus was on reviewing preliminary results of fellowship projects, providing peer review and suggestions on how best to strengthen the analytical results and strategize about completion of fellowship projects in light of COVID-19.
 2. Virtual meeting on "Legal identity, ethics, and rights", 10 June 2020.
 - On June 10, 2020 the Panel also held a technical panel discussion on "Legal identity, ethics, and rights" that explored contemporary ethics and human rights issues associated with civil registration, vital statistics and legal identity systems.
 - This panel discussion built on the panel discussion hosted at the 2019 African Population Conference in Uganda and focused on challenges and opportunities for demographers and population scientists.

- The 8th African Population Conference brought together researchers, governments, and many others interested in population data from across African and globally. This was a key opportunity to advance the conversation started at meetings such as ID4Africa, and the Fifth Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, held earlier in 2019 in the region, on how to take advantage of the changing CRVS landscape to provide better population data in a safe and responsible way to support development outcomes.
- CRVS investments in Africa have increasingly become linked with the development of broader national identity management approaches, including the use of biometrics and establishment of separate national identity authorities. The United Nations and key development partners are increasingly discussing the importance of a life-cycle approach to legal identity and advocating the importance of CRVS in this broader approach to identity authorities. While these new approaches have a range of potential benefits – not least of which are a way into legal ID for the millions whose births have not been previously registered and the potential for data linkage that could substantially improve our understanding and analysis of important development issues; there are also potential concerns regarding data protection, privacy and appropriate use.
- The panel explored a range of key questions in collaboration with the session audience. In particular the panel examined the importance of CRVS in national identity, the potential of these changing data landscapes to improve our understanding of vulnerable and marginalized populations and improve inclusion, and the emerging risks and concerns around these systems. Issues of data access, including the role of researchers and the need to better define data uses of linked identity data, the importance of strong legal frameworks, and building and maintaining community trust were all examined. Case examples from the IDRC Compendium of Good Practice - including examples of linkage between the CRVS and national ID systems - were also presented. The discussion also examined the role that demographers can and should play in these emerging discussions and how we can better engage with specialists across a broad range of professions to ensure a holistic and balanced approach to CRVS and identity data. Findings from the panel will form the basis of a broader discussion piece currently under development.
- The key messages and insights from this virtual session and the in-person session at the African Population Conference are being written up for inclusion in the Panel's edited volume to be published by Springer/IUSSP.



3. Webinar: Quantifying COVID-19-related Excess Mortality in Latin America, 17 July 2020.

- This webinar addressed the challenges of using civil registration data on cause-of-death to quantify excess mortality due to COVID-19. Organized by the **IUSSP Panel on CRVS Systems**, the webinar featured the work of colleagues from Latin America. Everton Lima (University of Campinas, Brazil and IUSSP Panel Member) presented a co-authored paper based on the collection of monthly civil registration data in Brazil, Peru, Chile and Ecuador analyzing the effects of disease on small areas by comparing mortality in 2018-2019 with 2020. The presentation provided an overview of the pandemic in Latin America and covered data sources and methods as well as preliminary results and issues with data collection in these countries.
- Stephane Helleringer (Johns Hopkins School of Public Health University) and Jenny Garcia (French Institute for Demographic Studies) served as discussants highlighting some of the challenges faced by the team in analyzing COVID-19 death data and estimating excess mortality. They reviewed issues of completeness of data and regional variation in how cause-of-death data is recorded and reported as well as the quality of that data. For instance, recent mortality is likely to be underestimated because of delays in reporting compared to data from a year earlier and thus more likely to underestimate excess mortality for more recent periods.
- A total of 235 attendees joined from 47 countries with Latin America accounting for 41% of participants and North America 25% of participants. The webinar included a rich Q&A with oral and written responses from Everton and his colleagues in Latin America. Romesh Silva also highlighted the issue of sex differences in death reporting.
- Romesh Silva (UNFPA and Chair of the Panel) moderated the webinar and Montasser Kamal (IDRC), representing the Centre of Excellence on CRVS, provided closing remarks. The recording, available [here](#), will be of value to those working on CRVS and mortality as well as the general public interested in understanding the statistics on COVID deaths reported in the press.



4. Virtual meeting for advanced drafts to be submitted to Genus Thematic Series, 11 and 25 September, 9 and 23 October 2020.
 - This series of virtual meetings consisted of seminars whereby IUSSP CRVS Fellows presented updated draft manuscripts to the IUSSP Panel. A Panelist provided detailed technical/substantive feedback on each manuscript and suggested refinements to focus on before the fellow's submission to the Genus thematic series.
 5. Our IPC2021 Sponsored Research Leader Session has been designed to launch the special issue of Genus dedicated to CRVS and promote the work of the IUSSP Scientific Panel and the IDRC Centre of Excellence on CRVS Systems.
 - This session will focus specifically on a selection of the peer-reviewed research undertaken by IUSSP CRVS Fellows – and therefore emphasize the recent contributions of early-career demographers to improvements in our understanding of civil registration and vital statistics;
 - It will showcase a selection of papers that cover the full life-course – birth registration, marriage, divorce and death registration; and
 - It will feature papers from a diverse array of countries and region across the globe.
- As part of its engagement with the wider IUSSP scientific community, the panel also contributed to IUSSP's [discussions](#), [deliberations](#) and [writings](#) on demography and the data revolution. These efforts interrogated the role of demography and demographers in the data revolution supporting the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Specifically, the panel emphasized the important role of CRVS systems in ensuring inclusiveness in development processes as well as monitoring and evaluating development progress. During these engagements, the IUSSP CRVS Fellows program was cited as an innovative way that IUSSP can nurture the next generation of population scientists with engaged mentoring and support from its membership. Further, the challenges ahead for demographers in engaging a wider array of population data systems – which include legal id systems that entail biometrically authenticated data – was actively discussed as an area this panel and the wider demography community need to be more engaged in.

Interruptions due to COVID-19 pandemic

The panel's work has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways:

- The panel postponed its planned technical meeting that was to be held on the side lines of the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, in Washington D.C. in late April. In lieu of that meeting, a 4-part webinar series was held to continue support to the 8 IUSSP CRVS Fellows and help them develop their initial research findings into tangible writing products.
- The planned fieldwork of the 8 IUSSP CRVS Fellows experienced notable delays and disruptions that required major adjustments to their respective research strategies. A number of fellows had planned to undertake additional training as part of their fellowships, but that was not possible due to travel restrictions. So that also impeded technical capacity development of IUSSP CRVS Fellows.
- Notably more support was required by the IUSSP Secretariat, than expected, as the panel's activities were largely conducted virtually and as such virtual workshops, webinars and technical meetings did require IUSSP Secretariat support for preparations, in-meeting and post-meeting follow-up. Further, as mentoring by panelists was reduced to email and virtual meetings, some support to fellows took additional rounds of interaction and suffered in quality, as the engagement was more difficult (especially for fellows in countries with low bandwidth and in notable different time zones than panelists).

Major Outputs from the IUSSP CRVS Panel

In the course of this grant from the IDRC-CoE, the panel has advanced three major outputs:

1. The Genus Thematic Series on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;
2. A Springer/IUSSP Edited Volume on demography of civil registration and analysis of vital statistics data; and
3. General audience pieces on the intersection of rights and population data systems, with a focus on CRVS and legal identity systems.

We discuss each of these major outputs, in turn, below and provide detailed documentation of these outputs. These outputs are being launched as part of the 2021 International Population Conference – the world's flagship demography conference – via a research leader session.

Genus Thematic Series

The Panel's special issue of Genus is being finalized with the last few manuscripts being edited and going through the last rounds of peer review.

All 8 Fellows submitted manuscripts to this series, and 4 panel members have submitted papers to this thematic series. An additional 3 papers have been received via the open call for papers for the Genus Thematic Series. This Thematic Series is co-edited by Romesh Silva and Irina Dincu. We expect that at least 8 manuscripts submitted by fellows and/or panelists will likely be accepted by Genus. The 3 papers that are likely not to be accepted by Genus will be published as IDRC working papers so that these papers can be widely engaged by researchers and perhaps be further improved and then published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature.

No	Authors	Title
1	Romesh Silva*; Irina Dincu*	Introduction to the Genus Thematic Series on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems
2	Siow Li Lai**, Nai Peng Tey	Deficiency of civil registration and vital statistics reporting in remote areas – the case of Sabah, Malaysia
3	Amanda R. Cheong**, Mary Anne Baltazar	Too Precarious to Walk: An Integrated “Three Delays” Framework for Modeling Barriers to Maternal Healthcare and Birth Registration Among Stateless Persons and Irregular Migrants in Malaysia
4	Marta Pasqualini**	Residence registration to cope with homelessness: Evidence from a mixed-method research in Milan
5	Khadijeh Asadi**	Determinants of and barriers to marriage registration in Sistan and Baluchistan, Iran
6	Alessandra De Rose	Studying marital dissolution in Italy: A proposal of marriage and separation registration data exploitation
7	Atoumane FALL , Bruno Masquelier*, Khadim Niang, Samba Ndiaye, Alphousseyini Ndonky	Motivations and barriers to death registration in Dakar, Senegal
8	Leonard Atuhaire	Prevalence and Determinants of Death Registration Uptake in Uganda
9	Gilbert Habaasa**	Social Norms and Behavioral Practices affecting Death Registration in 3 HDSS Sites of Uganda
10	Aashish Gupta**, Sneha Gupta	Routes to improved mortality monitoring: Evidence from the Kerala MARANAM Study
11	Chalapati Rao	Estimating mortality indicators for WHO SEAR Countries: Problems and prospects
12	M Moinuddin Haider**, Nurul Alam, Mamun Ibn Bashar, Stephane Helleringer	Adult death registration in Matlab, rural Bangladesh: completeness, correlates and obstacles
13	Helena Cruz Castanheira**	Examining sex differences in the completeness of Peruvian CRVS data and adult mortality estimates
14	Everton EC Lima*; Estevão Vilela; Andrés Peralta; Ph.D; Marília Rocha ; Bernardo L Queiroz, Ph.D; Marcos R Gonzaga, Ph.D; Mario Piscoya-Díaz; Kevin Martinez-Folgar; Victor M García-Guerrero	Investigating regional excess mortality in the context of covid pandemic in selected Latin America countries

* denotes IUSSP CRVS Panel Member; ** denotes IUSSP CRVS Fellow

The Genus Thematic series highlights the breadth and depth of scientific research and scholarship undertaken by the panel. Copies of these manuscripts are included in an electronic appendix to this technical report (Please see Appendix 1).

The series includes papers on birth, marriage, divorce and death registration. The two papers on birth registration in Sabah, Malaysia highlight the complementarity of qualitative research and formal demographic methods in understanding the limitations of official vital statistics in Malaysia and the precarious processes and systems that foreign labor migrants must navigate to ensure their children have legal identity from the time of birth. Eight of the papers in the Genus thematic series focus specifically on death registration – highlighting the expansive array of analytic methods that demographers employ when studying mortality based on vital event registration data. Most of them specifically showcase the nature, magnitude and trends in adult mortality – which implicitly highlights how reliant on CRVS systems demographers are, when it comes to the systematic study of mortality. This highlights the reality that few censuses and major household surveys, especially in low-/middle-income countries, actually generate high quality data on adult mortality. Further, during times of pandemic, timely and high quality death registration is a life-saving resource when it can be used to generate actionable mortality statistics – a point highlighted by the last paper in the series by Everton Lima et al. One paper describes the poorly understood barriers to marriage registration in Iran, and another paper documents how official divorce registration can lead to new insights on marital dissolution in Italy. These two papers are unique in that the peer-reviewed literature, in well-respected demography journals, on nuptiality and divorce that draws on civil registration data is essentially non-existent.

The Genus thematic series also showcases demographic estimation techniques used to assess the completeness and quality of civil registration data, qualitative and mixed-methods research to understand the determinants and consequences of under-registration across the life course, and novel uses of civil registration to understand population health and well-being. Hence, it holds wide appeal to a broad cross-section of social scientists – from mathematical demographers and applied statisticians to cultural anthropologists and public health operations researchers.

The Genus series also engages CRVS systems in a diverse range of regions and with respect to a range of population subgroups: CRVS systems in high and higher middle-income countries (e.g. Italy and Malaysia) and several low-resource settings (e.g. Uganda, India, Bangladesh). In many ways, the series shows that “Who counts?” is a difficult political, economic and technical question that requires an interdisciplinary approach to adequately begin to engage the issues. Further, it reminds us that civil registration systems are pivotal for societal inclusion throughout the life course, and not just pertinent issues in low-resource settings but also unresolved amongst some of the most vulnerable populations in higher income settings – e.g. foreign labor migrants in Malaysia and the homeless in Milan, Italy.

Springer/IUSSP Edited Volume

The Panel is producing an edited volume through [the IUSSP/Springer series on Demographic Methods and Population Analysis](#). This edited volume is titled *“Ending Invisibility: the role of civil registration, vital statistics systems and demographic methods”*. It synthesizes an overview of recent regional progress in CRVS systems strengthening and useful technical methods and analytical approaches used by demographers when analyzing vital registration data. The regional overviews are designed to help demographers understand the recent advances and the many remaining challenges that are yet to be fully addressed in CRVS strengthening efforts. The collection of technical papers collates a series of papers that the panel has supported through its ongoing scientific meetings and/or collaborations and brings them together in one place so that interested researchers can easily access them.

The table of contents of the IUSSP/Springer edited volume is included in Appendix 2.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic disruptions and the strong response by fellows, panelists and the wider scientific community to the [Genus call for submissions](#), this progress in advancing this edited volume has been slower than intended. The Genus thematic series is time-bound with tighter deadlines, unlike this Springer/IUSSP edited volume. Also, the bulk of the Panel's funding resources has gone to supporting the fellows and the production of the Genus thematic series, and this has resulted in reduced support over the last 9 months to the IUSSP/Springer volume.

Outreach on Rights, Privacy, Ethics at the Intersection of CRVS and Legal Identity Systems

The Panel, after consultation with the IDRC Centre of Excellence on CRVS Systems, engaged in sustained work to explore the ethical, rights and privacy challenges that are evolving at the intersection of legal ID systems and CRVS systems. This has entailed three specific activities:

- An invited panel session at the African Population Conference in November, 2019 in Kampala, Uganda
- An Online session on ethics, rights and privacy issues at the intersection of legal identity and CRVS systems, and
- Production of a discussion paper (to be published either as an IUSSP Policy & Research Paper or as a chapter in the IUSSP/Springer edited volume).

The Panel undertook this work to highlight the area of ethics, privacy and rights. This was identified as an area that the IUSSP had a strong reputation in, given its prior work on human rights and population research over its long history and its positioning as an independent professional society of international demographers. The Panel also prioritized this work given that panelists have been concerned by the lack of engagement by population researchers on the ethics and data privacy issues in the area of CRVS/ID systems.

As a result, the work and activities of the panel in this area has been designed to understand how best professional demographers can support practitioners in this area and contribute independent research that helps our collective understanding around ethical challenges and data privacy risks as CRVS and ID systems become increasingly digitized and linked to other large-scale population data systems.

The main outputs to-date from this work stream are included in Appendix 3 of this report.

Conclusions

The Panel has benefited greatly from support from and collaboration with the IDRC CoE. In particular, the panel has:

- Provided mentoring to a new generation of young population scientists as a means to stimulate and entice a new cohort of demographers and social scientists to engage CRVS systems as both a topic of study and a data source to better understand population health.
- Facilitated new scientific collaborations between and amongst panelists, fellows and the broader IUSSP membership. Some of these collaborations have sprouted from in-person and virtual meetings the panel has hosted, and others have developed from the ongoing collaboration around fellows' research projects.

- Engaged practitioners on the African continent to better understand rights, privacy and ethical challenges that emerging CRVS/ID systems entail. The work of the panel here has begun to bring independent scientists into these discussions, which have largely been dominated by the private sector and multilateral institutions.
- Made substantial progress in producing a new Genus thematic series and IUSSP/Springer edited volume that showcase the CRVS systems and their engagement by demographers in the peer-reviewed scientific literature.

On behalf of the IUSSP Scientific Panel on 'CRVS', we thank the IDRC Centre of Excellence on CRVS Systems for generous support and active collaboration. This partnership has truly strengthened and facilitated the work of our panel and gone a small way in supporting the next generation of population scientists and their engagement with CRVS systems.

Appendix 1

Below is the list of papers submitted to the Genus thematic series on CRVS systems. The papers can be accessed [here](#).

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1	Romesh Silva*; Irina Dincu*	Introduction to the Genus Thematic Series on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems
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Appendix 2

Springer/IUSSP/UNFPA Edited Volume on CRVS *"Ending Invisibility: the role of civil registration, vital statistics systems and demographic methods"*

Draft Table of Contents

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Forewords

Tom Le Grand, President, IUSSP

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Patrick Gerland, Romesh Silva, Bruno Masquelier (editors)

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On the Historical Development of CRVS Systems

Michel Garenne, Pierre Cantrelle, Etienne van der Walle

Registration of births, deaths and causes of deaths to inform public health policies

Michel Garenne

Recent Developments in Global Efforts to Strengthen CRVS Systems

Irina Dincu

Future Directions in Global Efforts to Strengthen CRVS Systems

Romesh Silva, Irina Dincu

Part 2 - Regional Perspectives on CRVS Strengthening

Vital registration systems in sub Saharan Africa: History of a misconception and hope for the future

Pierre Cantrelle and Michelle Garenne (paper presented at UAPS side meeting)

APAI-CRVS

Raj Mitra, Oliver Chinaganya, Yakub Ziewoldi

ESCAP Get in the Picture - Asia Pacific

Tanja Sejersen + David Rausis

Brisbane Accord Group -- South Pacific Islands

Karen Carter + Gloria Mathenge

Western Asia

Marwan Khawaja

Latin America

Pablo Salazar and Rebeca Omana (and other coauthors to be added)

Part 3 - Recent Technical Advances in Assessing Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems

An Overview of Analytical Methods to Evaluate the Completeness and Quality of Death Registration

Ken Hill (UNPD technical paper series)

Principles and Practices of Record Linkage Techniques to Assess Death Registration Completeness

Chalapathi Rao (UNPD technical paper series)

Lessons Learned from record linkage applications to understand mortality differentials between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians

Ching Choi and Len Smith (presented at IAOS session)

Lessons Learned from Record Linkage Studies of CRVS Systems in the Pacific Islands

Karen Carter (presented at PAA side meeting in DC)

National and subnational experience with estimating the extent and trend in completeness of registration of vital events in Brazil

Bernardo Lanza Quieroz, Everton Lima, and Eliane de Freitas Drumond (UNPD EGM)

Methodology and lessons learned to evaluate the completeness and quality of vital statistics data from civil registration in Thailand

Patama Vapattanawong, Mahidol University

An Evaluation on Turkey's New Death Registry System

Zehra Yayla (zehrayayla@hacettepe.edu.tr) & Alanur Çavlin (alanurcv@hacettepe.edu.tr), Hacettepe University, Institute of Population Studies, Ankara, Turkey

Completing incomplete vital registration: estimating the extent and trend in completeness of registration of births and deaths in South Africa

Rob Dorrington and Ian Timaeus (presented at UAPS side meeting)

Appendix 3

Emerging Issues in CRVS and ID: *Parallel session at the 8th African Population Conference*

Entebbe, UGANDA, 25-18 November 2019

Organized by the IUSSP Panel on Population Perspectives and Demographic Methods to Strengthen Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems.

The 8th African Population Conference brought together researchers, governments, and many others interested in population data from across African and globally. This was a key opportunity to advance the conversation started at meetings such as ID4Africa, and the Fifth Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration, held earlier in 2019 in the region, on how to take advantage of the changing CRVS landscape to provide better population data in a safe and responsible way to support development outcomes.

CRVS investments in Africa have increasingly become linked with the development of broader national identity management approaches, including the use of biometrics and establishment of separate national identity authorities. The United Nations and key development partners are increasingly discussing the importance of a life-cycle approach to legal identity and advocating the importance of CRVS in this broader approach to identity authorities. While these new approaches have a range of potential benefits – not least of which are a way into legal ID for the millions whose births have not been previously registered and the potential for data linkage that could substantially improve our understanding and analysis of important development issues; there are also potential concerns re data protection, privacy and appropriate use.

The panel, which comprised Kazija Khamis Said (Office of the Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar, Tanzania), Sandile Simelane (Technical Division, UNFPA), Zoran Djokovic (Consultant for IDRC), discussant Ellen Percy Kraly (Professor at Colgate University), and was chaired by Karen Carter, member of the IUSSP “CRVS” Panel, explored a range of key questions in collaboration with the session audience. In particular the panel examined the importance of CRVS in national identity, the potential of these changing data landscapes to improve our understanding of vulnerable and marginalized populations and improve inclusion, and the emerging risks and concerns around these systems. Issues of data access, including

the role of researchers and the need to better define data uses of linked identity data, the importance of strong legal frameworks, and building and maintaining community trust were all examined. Case examples from the Compendium of Good Practice currently being developed by the IDRC - including examples of linkage between the CRVS and national ID systems were also presented. The discussion also examined the role that demographers can and should play in these emerging discussions and how we can better engage with specialists across a broad range of professions to ensure a holistic and balanced approach to CRVS and identity data. Findings from the panel will form the basis of a broader discussion piece currently under development.

The 8th African Population Conference was organised by the Union of African Population Studies (UAPS). This session was organized by the IUSSP Panel on Population Perspectives and Demographic Methods to Strengthen Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems. The panel receives support from the International Development Research Collaborative (IDRC), of Canada, which also supported panellists to attend this conference. The views expressed are those of the panellists, and do not necessarily reflect those of any of the organisations represented.

IUSSP Webinar on Legal Identity, ethics and rights

On June 10, 2020 the Panel also held a technical panel discussion on “**Legal identity, ethics, and rights**” that explored contemporary ethics and human rights issues associated with civil registration, vital statistics and legal identity systems. This panel discussion built on the panel discussion hosted at the 2019 African Population Conference in Uganda and focused on challenges and opportunities for demographers and population scientists.

Video recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3JJ0f5PCqFJLetLj5kzCdalsOKXJea8hHNMqPYLyUtpHZk8qHZKKpi7OJ45CDon>
Password: 0z.Nr%Uh